



NEWS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release
June 30, 2005**

LAKE CHARLES MAN WITH PROMINENT CRIMINAL HISTORY PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGAL FIREARM POSSESSION

Lake Charles, Louisiana . . . **ANTHONY QUINN COLEMAN**, age 44, from Lake Charles, Louisiana, pled guilty yesterday to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon before United States District Judge Donald Walter, announced United States Attorney Donald W. Washington and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Special Agent in Charge Mark Chait. COLEMAN was indicted by a federal grand jury in March 2005. COLEMAN has 23 prior arrests and six convictions, some being felonies that were reduced to misdemeanors. It is against federal law for a convicted felon to possess a firearm and/or ammunition.

According to court documents, officers of the Lake Charles Police Department stopped COLEMAN on the morning of August 29, 2004 while

COLEMAN was walking on a public roadway with a 12-gauge shotgun. The shotgun COLEMAN was carrying was stolen that morning during a burglary committed by COLEMAN. In addition to federal firearms charges, he faces state charges for burglary.

This case was prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide program begun in 2001, and designed to reduce violence in our communities by aggressively using existing federal firearms laws. United States Attorneys, District Attorneys, Sheriffs, Police Chiefs, and state officials have created partnerships to address crimes involving firearms. Generally, any arrest involving a firearm is reviewed immediately by local, state and federal authorities to decide whether the case is best suited for prosecution under state or federal law, or a combination of both. Project Safe Neighborhoods is expected to lead to longer prison terms for violent criminals, and a significant reduction in violent crime. To date, federal prosecutions under Project Safe Neighborhoods in the Western District of Louisiana have led to the incarceration of criminals responsible for violent crimes such as homicides, aggravated assaults, robbery, car jacking, burglary, and drug trafficking.

Sentencing will be scheduled for a later date to be determined by the Court. COLEMAN faces a term of imprisonment of not more than 10 years, a fine of not

more than \$250,000, and a term of supervised release of not less than three years.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. United States Sentencing Guidelines established by the United States Congress and the United States Sentencing Commission may only be used as guidelines by the judge. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

The investigation was conducted by the Lake Charles Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Larry J. Regan.

For further information, please contact United States Attorney Donald W. Washington at 337-262-6618 or First Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Flanagan at 318-676-3600.

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